

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07
NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01
IGA-02 /095 W

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R 091807Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7829

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0261

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, FR, EC, XG

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSES EC BUDGET BILL

SUMMARY. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 7 BY
396 VOTES AGAINST 75 A BILL WHICH RATIFIES THE TREATY
SIGNED IN BRUSSELS ON JULY 22, 1975, INCREASING THE
BUDGETARY POWERS OF THE EC PARLIAMENT AND CREATING A
EUROPEAN COURT OF ACCOUNTS (COUR DES COMPTES). GAULLIST
DEPUTIES, MANY OF WHOM ARE IN PRINCIPLE AGAINST INCREAS-
ING THE EC'S POWERS, REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO VOTE THE
TEXT ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE BILL RATIFYING THE
NEW STATUES OF THE IMF (PARIS 33335 AND PARIS 33381)
WOULD BE DELAYED ON THE PARLIAMENT'S AGENDA UNTIL NEXT
SPRING. THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) VOTED FOR THE BUDGET
BILL AFTER AN INTERNAL DEBATE WITH ITS LEFT WING, WHILE
THE COMMUNISTS VOTED AGAINST. MOST SPEAKERS DISTINGUI-
SHED BETWEEN THIS BILL AND THE ONE ON THE EC PARLIAMEN-
TARY VOTE, ON WHICH THE DEBATE WILL BE MORE POLITICIZED
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AND MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOF. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL BUT SIX DEPUTIES OF THE MAJORITY VOTED FOR THE BILL; FIVE RPR (FORMER UDR) DEPUTIES, INCLUDING MICHEL DEBRE AND INDEPENDENT JEAN ROYER, ABSTAINED. RPR DEPUTY CHRISTIAN DE LA MALENE TOOK PAINS IN EXPLAINING FOR HIS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP THAT THEY DREW A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE PRESENT BILL AND THE BILL TO BE INTRODUCED NEXT SPRING ON AN EC PARLIAMENT ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE. KEEPING THE TWO BILLS DISTINCT, HE EXPLAINED, WOULD AVOID AMBIGUITY AND ALLOW FRANCE NOW TO CLEARLY DELIMIT THE BUDGETARY POWERS OF THE EC PARLIAMENT. MOST OF HIS RPR COLLEAGUES FELT THE PRESENT BILL WAS A TECHNICAL MATTER AND NOT WORTH A FIGHT. "A SMALL TEXT WITHOUT INTEREST," COMMENTED GAULLIST ANDRE FANTON.

2. IN A MOVE WHICH SURPRISED SOME OBSERVERS, THE SOCIALISTS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE BILL, WHILE THE PCF'S 74 MEMBERS VOTED AGAINST IN SPITE OF EARLY INDICATIONS THAT THEY MIGHT ABSTAIN. THE PS EXECUTIVE BUREAU MET THAT SAME MORNING TO HAMMER OUT ITS POSITION. ITS LEFT WING (CERES) REPORTEDLY ARGUED FOR AN ABSTENTION ON THE VOTE, ON THE THEORY THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DISASSOCIATE THE BUDGET FROM THE UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TEXTS. THE MAJORITY WITHIN THE PS HOWEVER PREVAILED, SUPPORTING THEIR POSITION WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT THE COMMON PROGRAM OF THE LEFT PROVIDES FOR A DEMOCRATIZATION OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS (BUDGETARY CONTROL OF THE PARLIAMENT OVER THE COMMISSION). THE PCF HAD INTRODUCED A MOTION TO RETURN THE BILL TO COMMISSION, BECAUSE (AS THEIR CERES ALLIES HAD ALSO ARGUED) THE BUDGET AND ELECTION TEXTS COULD NOT BE LOGICALLY DISASSOCIATED FROM EACH OTHER. PCF SPOKESMAN BORDU CALLED THE BUDGET BILL A "CONDUIT FOR SUPRANATIONALISM" AND INSISTED THAT HIS INTERPRETA-

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NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7830
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0262
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
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TION OF THE COMMON PROGRAM SUPPORT THE PCF POSITION.

3. GISCARD WELCOMED THE FINAL VOTE IMMEDIATELY ON HIS RETURN FROM YUGOSLAVIA AND DREW THE CONCLUSION THAT THE MAJORITY, DESPITE ITS MANY INTERNAL TENSIONS, HOLDS TOGETHER QUITE WELL WHEN IT COMES TO ACTING ON THE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM. "IN POLITICS, IT IS THE FACTS WHICH COUNT," HE STATED. "FOR THIS REASON," HE CONTINUED, "I DO NOT SEE ANY REASON TO END PREMATURELY THE EXISTENCE OF THE MAJORITY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IT IS NECESSARY, ON THE CONTRARY, TO ENCOURAGE IT TO PURSUE ITS WORK." GISCARD MAY ALSO BE PLEASED WITH THE SOCIALIST VOTE WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED, MISTAKENLY WE BELIEVE, AS A TINY STEP BY THE MODERATE LEFT TOWARD THE CENTER.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE PRESIDENT MAY PUBLICLY SAY HE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENCOURAGED BY THE BUDGET VOTE, HE MUST NEVERTHELESS HAVE APPREHENSIONS ABOUT THE VOTE NEXT SPRING. MOST OF THE PARTIES (INCLUDING THE PS) HAVE DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN MONDAY'S VOTE AND NEXT SPRING'S BILL -- WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PCF, WHICH IN ANY CASE IS AGAINST BOTH. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, IN ADDITION, THAT THE RPR INTENDS TO DIG ITS HEELS IN ON THE IMF ISSUE, AT LEAST. THE SPLIT BETWEEN THE PS AND PCF POINTS UP CLEARLY THAT THE TWO PARTIES CAN COME TO WILDLY DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF COMMON PROGRAM LANGUAGE. BUT WE CAUTION AGAINST EXAGGERATING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SPLIT. WHILE PCF LEADER MARCHAIS SUBSEQUENTLY REGRETTED THE PS VOTE, THE BILL WAS A TECHNICAL ONE AND DID NOT PRESENT A CHOICE

OF BROAD POLITICAL OPTIONS.

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